

The Ridgeway CE Primary School

'Building for Life'

Newsletter
22nd October 2026

News from Mrs Blockley

I can't believe we've already reached the end of our first half-term! It feels like only five minutes ago we were welcoming everyone back after the summer holidays!

It's certainly been a busy few weeks. Our new children have settled in beautifully, and it already feels like they've always been part of our school family. We've enjoyed so many wonderful experiences, from a live Bayeux Tapestry workshop and parent meet-and-greets and workshops to making pumpkin soup and celebrating Black History Month.

This week, we also welcomed our new rector, Rev. Laurence, who led our collective worship on Wednesday. He'll be teaching us a new hymn over the coming weeks, and we look forward to seeing him again at our Remembrance Service.

We've finished the half-term on a creative high with a fantastic collaborative project alongside our SPS Partnership schools. Together, we've recreated the covers of much-loved books, bringing favourite stories and characters to life through art. (We've added some pictures opposite!)

A huge thank you to **Wantage Literary Festival** for giving us the opportunity to be part of their celebrations. You can visit **The Beacon in Wantage** to see our artwork!

As we celebrate the National Year of Reading and embrace *'Go All In'*, it's been a lovely way to celebrate the joy of reading, the power of stories and the creativity they inspire.

I hope everyone enjoys a restful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for another exciting term!

Mrs Blockley

Notices

@ridgewayprimary









Wren Class – Class attendance for the week: 92%

We've reached the end of the first half-term – WOW! What a ride! The pupils have been fantastic and really welcoming – I have really enjoyed getting to know them and getting a good idea of strengths but also a good handle on areas of focus. We've completed a full set of assessments, started our homework schedules. Reading is getting very competitive and the pupils love getting up the Reading Chart – 9 pupils have made it to Neverland. Great progress in Maths – we'll continue after half-term and keep filling gaps – we'll be focusing on multiples of 1,000 after half-term moving to numbers to 10 million. In English, the non-chronological reports look fantastic – they have worked really hard. After half-term, we'll start with a unit of poetry and then a traditional Maya story – The Rain Player. We will also be attending the Wantage Literacy Festival on 4th November. We will also continue to read The Explorer as a class book to finish the story. We've had great fun in Netball with some very competitive games, thinking about space, speed and accuracy. After half-term, we will switch to Hockey and TAG Rugby – we will try and be outside as much as possible so please dress appropriately. We will switch from History to Geography – looking at South America. There will be no homework for half-term, please rest and recharge the batteries – we'll start again when we get back. Thank you so much for your support, it's been lovely meeting some of you and chatting. You should be very proud of the pupils; they have worked hard. Have a great half-term break – Mr Minter

House Martin – Class attendance for the week: 98%

In our final week in English, House Martins learnt how to vary our sentence length and made a toolkit in preparation for writing our own reports on a volcano eruption. In Maths, we worked on using a ruler and metre ruler correctly, measuring height and length from zero. In Geography we had fun using the school iPads to locate a range of famous volcanoes and find out facts such as when the last eruption took place. In Art, we spent a lovely hour creating underwater nature drawings, inspired by the work of artist Yellena James. In RE, we thought about what the main moral messages were from a parable then ordered them in terms of importance using a diamond 9. In PE, we continued to develop our game skills and strategies for tag rugby and in PSHE we finished our Being Me in the World unit. No homework this week – have a lovely half term.

Skylarks - Class attendance for the week: 98%

Skylarks have had a very busy end to the term. In Maths, the children have been completing short assessments. They've done really well and I've been so impressed with their willingness to have a go. In English, they have been applying what they've learned about writing Job Advertisements to write one independently. Having finished their 'Night Soil Man' advert, they have been rewriting the advert for a teacher that they had originally had a go at writing at the beginning. They've used some great adjectives and have been very clear about what kind of person they would hire. In art, the children have completed an artist study on Brianna McCarthy and have had a go at creating a portrait in her style using lines. In History, the children learned more about Victorian toys and had a go at making a thaumatrope!

Robin- Class attendance for the week: 97%

Robins have finally made it to the end of term and what a great first term at school it has been – great job everyone! Mrs Allan came to Forest School which was very exciting. At one point, she pretended to be a woodland monster that was trying to gobble up all the Robins! When the coast was clear and they were sure she had turned back into the lovely Mrs Allan it was time to plant some sycamore seeds by throwing them up into the sky so they spun like helicopters. The Robins then had a go at blowing some bubbles to see if these floated differently down to the ground. Our story this week has been 'Pumpkin Soup' by Helen Cooper. Our activities have therefore been all about pumpkins… Ordering pumpkins by size, picking pumpkins using tweezers and making patterns using different colours. Drawing Club started this week too. The children have thought about the characters and the setting of the story and found out the meaning of vocabulary including 'shriek', 'scrumptious', 'scramble' and 'squabble'. They have used their imaginations to think about all the adventures that could be had by adding secret codes to their work. The Robins enjoyed making pumpkin soup by scooping out the flesh of a large pumpkin, adding water, onions and stock to a big pan and cooking it on the hob. It's fair to say that the tasting session was not a hit as many children described the soup as 'yucky' and certainly not 'scrumptious'!





The Ridgeway CE School PTA

Christmas Raffle



The PTA is seeking donations of hamper prizes (e.g. treats, wine, vouchers) or event sponsorship. Can you help? Your generosity will support our local school community, enriching the children's education experience and school facilities. Please contact the school office or the PTA team (ridgewayschoolpta@gmail.com).

Christmas Jumpers

Do you have any preloved Christmas jumpers or t-shirts, in sizes 5-12yrs, your children have outgrown? Please consider donating to our sustainability shop. Drop off is at the school office between November 2nd and November 20th. Please only donate items of good quality.

